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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR DOCTOR/DENTIST OFFICE

Best management practices can be thought of as using “good housekeeping” practices. Listed below are several procedures to operate your facility and minimize the risk of contamination of the environment.

1. Facilities must **not** discharge any waste x-ray solutions to septic tanks, storm drains, or to the ground. If sanitary sewers serve the facility, the wastewater may be treated by an approved treatment system and the effluent may be discharged to the sanitary sewers if it meets applicable sewer standards (silver 0.4 mg/l). If your facility is served by septic tank these solutions may be picked up by a DERM approved transporter.
2. All biohazardous waste (BHW) must be “red-bagged” and properly disposed of per Health Department Standards. Biohazardous Waste may not be mixed with the regular trash. If (BHW) is not treated on-site, a DERM permitted transporter must be used.
3. Waste disposal
 - a. All hazardous waste must be disposed of via a permitted hazardous waste transporter and taken to a federally approved hazardous waste disposal facility. Receipts of all waste disposals and hazardous waste manifests must be retained for no less than three (3) years, at the generator's facility and be available for review.
 - b. In all situations where the waste is deemed to be hazardous a permitted hazardous waste transporter must be used to transport the waste to a federally approved hazardous waste treatment or disposal facility. The facility generating the hazardous waste is required to obtain an Environmental Protection Agency identification number unless classified as a conditionally exempt generator, by contacting:

Bureau of Waste Planning and Regulation
Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Two Towers Office Building Room 471
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400
(904) 488-4805
4. Storage
 - a. Chemical storage areas must be on an impervious surface with secondary containment or a bermed and covered area away from drainage structures (e.g. floor drains or storm drains).

5. Special attention should be paid to storm drain locations (also known as storm sewers). Storm drains are designed to help alleviate rainwater build up. These drains are not connected to the sanitary sewer system, but rather assist in allowing the rainwater to drain into the ground and groundwater. Therefore industrial discharges should not be allowed to drain into these storm drains. Areas near storm drains must be kept free of oil, grease and other contaminants so that rainwater does not wash these materials into the storm drains.

All doctors and dentist operating X-ray machines are required to have Annual Pollution Control Operating Permits.

Questions will be answered by the Industrial Facilities Section staff at (305)372-6600.